Parent Fact Sheet

Very-Long-Chain Acyl-CoA Dehydrogenase Deficiency (VLCAD)

(Very Long Chain A-sill-Co-A De-hi-dro-gen-ace De-fish-n-see)

What is VLCAD?

Very-Long-Chain Acyl-CoA Dehydrogenase Deficiency (VLCAD) is a metabolic disorder. This means the body has a chemical imbalance. VLCAD is a condition in which the body cannot change fats in the diet to fuel for the body to use for energy. VLCAD is inherited. This means it is present at birth.

What type of problems occurs with VLCAD?

A baby who has this condition may have low blood sugar, liver disease, and heart conditions. Early diagnosis and treatment will help prevent these problems.

What is the chance my baby will have VLCAD?

Babies born with this condition have a changed gene from each parent. A person who has one changed gene is called a carrier. A person who is a carrier does not have symptoms. If both parents are carriers, either parent can pass on the changed gene to their baby. If both parents pass on the changed gene, the baby will have the condition. If both parents are carriers, for each pregnancy:

- There is a 25% chance that the baby will be born with this condition. •
- There is a 50% chance that the baby will be a carrier for this condition.
- There is a 25% chance that the baby will not be born with this condition and will not be a carrier.

What is the treatment of VLCAD?

The treatment of VLCAD usually consists of eating on a regular schedule. This means that your child should eat or drink nutritional supplements every 3-5 hours. When your child is sick they need to be followed closely by their physician. Your baby's metabolic doctor will help you make sure that your baby gets the right diet and medical care.

Where in Virginia can I take my baby for care?

Please speak to your baby's pediatrician about obtaining a referral to a pediatric metabolic specialist in your area. If you want to know more about this condition, please contact Virginia Newborn Screening Services, Virginia Department of Health. The Web site is http://www.vahealth.org/gns.

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